

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-25 were rejected. All pending claims are believed to be clearly allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-22 and 25 stand under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0013342 (hereinafter "Kaminski") in view of U.S. Patent 5,513,913 (hereinafter "Ball").

Claim 6 stands under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski and Ball, applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-22 and 25 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,547,435 (hereinafter "Grosswig").

Claim 10 stands under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski and Ball, applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-22 and 25 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,636,041 (hereinafter "Arz").

Claims 11, 23 and 24 stand under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski and Ball, applied to claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-22 and 25 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,827,487 (hereinafter "Twerdochlib").

Claims 1, 13 and 17 are independent. All of the recited claims are believed to be patentable as cited below.

Claims 1, 13, and 17 and claims depending therefrom:

Applicants respectfully submit that Kaminski was filed on July 17, 2003 and was published on January 20, 2005. The present application was filed on December 11, 1003.

Accordingly, the presently application was filed prior to the publication of Kaminski. Thus, Kaminski would only be available as prior art, if at all, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Moreover, Kaminski and the present application are commonly assigned to General Electric Company at the time the present invention was made. More specifically, Applicants submit that they have reviewed the evidentiary documents, specifically, the Assignment of Kaminski to General Electric Company, which has been recorded at Reel/Frame 014305/0181 and the Assignment of the present application to General Electric Company, which has been recorded at Reel/Frame 014817/0228.

Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Kaminski is unavailable as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 13 and 17 are allowable and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider rejection of the claims.

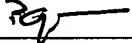
Furthermore, Kaminski was used as a basis for rejection of claims depending from independent claims 1, 13 and 17. For the reasons summarized hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that claims depending from independent claims 1, 13 and 17 are allowable due to the unavailability of Kaminski as prior art, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider rejection of the claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545